

# • Abroad •

**Trivandrum, Kerala.** Among facts disclosed by analysis of the recent election: 1) There was a virtually complete polarization between the Communists and the anti-Communists organized in the "United Democratic Front"; only 2 1/2 per cent of the vote went to independents. 2) The Christian and Moslem communities, which together compose one-third of the population, were solidly anti-Communist. On election day the Catholic churches celebrated mass at 4 A. M. to dedicate voters to the defeat of the Communists. Bafaki Thangal, the chief Moslem leader, invoked the Koran to the same end. 3) The Ezhavas (lowest local Hindu caste) and the untouchables, together comprising another third, were solidly pro-Communist. 4) The aged leader of the Hindu Nair sect (one-fifth of the population), Mannath Padmanabhan, largely because of his opposition to the Communist school measures, swung the balance against the Communists. 5) The Communists were defeated not by their own losses—their vote was actually higher by a million than in 1957—but by the united mass upsurge of the non-Communists, who, under the Red rule, had changed from friendly apathy to fierce opposition. The voting turnout was 85 per cent (against 78 per cent in 1957), and the campaign the most intense ever fought in India.

**Haifa, Israel.** Back of the sharp Israeli-Syrian clashes in the demilitarized zones around Lake Tiberias and the Israeli destruction of the village of Khirbet Tawafiq, lies: a) an Israeli determination to counterbalance their loss of face from Nasser's continued success in blocking Israeli ships and cargoes from the Suez Canal; b) the Jordan irrigation development, for which Israel needs to control the now-demilitarized zone north of Lake Tiberias, and against which the UAR remains adamantly opposed.

**Tokyo, Japan.** In a development reminiscent of the break between the Saragat right wing and Nenni left wing of postwar Italian socialism, a rightist faction of Japanese socialists, including 54 members of the Diet led by Suehiro Nishio and Eki Sone, has broken away from the Social Democratic Party to form a new Democratic Socialist Party. The Demo-Socialists seek, they say, a middle road between reactionaries to their right and crypto-Communists to their left. They look to find it in welfarism without class struggle, mixed economy (*à la* Godesberg program), true ballot-box democracy, genuine neutralism instead of ultra nationalism or pro-Sovietism. One branch of the trade union movement (*Zenro*) has gone along, leaving the more radical *Sohyo* unions to the fellow-traveling Left.

**Taipei, Formosa.** It is not widely realized in the United States that Formosa is one of the largest sugar exporters in the world. A hundred million dollars worth of sugar represents about three-fourths of Formosa's total commercial export. Her markets are principally in the Far

and Middle East: Japan, Malaya, Korea, Hong Kong, Ceylon, Iran. The U.S. takes about 3,000 tons. The export level could quickly be increased. In fact, her 1960 export quota has been tentatively fixed by the International Sugar Conference at a figure (677,500 tons) that is 100,000 tons below that assigned and easily fulfilled in 1958.

**Salisbury, England.** There are now estimated to be about 200 million domestic birds and animals, utilitarian or pet, in Britain. The 4,600 accredited veterinarians who take care of their troubles are riding a postwar boom that shows no signs of receding. A graduate vet, qualified by listing on the Register of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, needs \$50,000 or more to buy an established practice. But he can easily get a job as an assistant, at one of the highest starting salaries in the economy, plus all sorts of expense account items, including house and car. Except for 700 vets in the Ministry of Agriculture, veterinary medicine is still a free private profession. It is attracting able and talented young men who are disinclined to what they feel would be the drudgery of a medical career in the National Health Service.



The Prime Minister's African tour (as seen from Paris) — "The French must be made to realize that their African policy is a threat to the whole Western world!"

**Moscow, USSR.** The decline in the formerly all-pervasive official MVD has been partly counterbalanced by the growth of the "volunteer" but officially sponsored "People's Guards"—the new term for the "Brigades for Cooperation with the Militia" (*Brigad-mils*). The People's Guards, now operating all over the Soviet Union, are squads of young, tough vigilantes. Ostensibly they curb the *stilyagi* (hoods, juvenile delinquents) and assist the authorities in such minor police tasks as anti-litter campaigns. Actually, they seem to be embryo SS gangs designed to knock individualistic, potentially anti-regime tendencies out of the citizenry, particularly the youth.

**Copenhagen, Denmark.** There exists in Denmark a magistracy that perhaps deserves to be better known in the rest of the world. This is the "Ombudsman," whose duty, harking back to the Roman Tribunitiate, is to investigate any complaint or grievance that an individual citizen may have against the State or its agents. The present Ombudsman, Prof. Stefan Hurwitz, has visited several European countries at the request of persons who wish to discover how the office might be imported.

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